

In South Carolina, drivers who use bioptic telescopic lenses may be permitted to get a driver's license with restrictions.



Interested?

To learn more,
talk to your low vision doctor
or contact

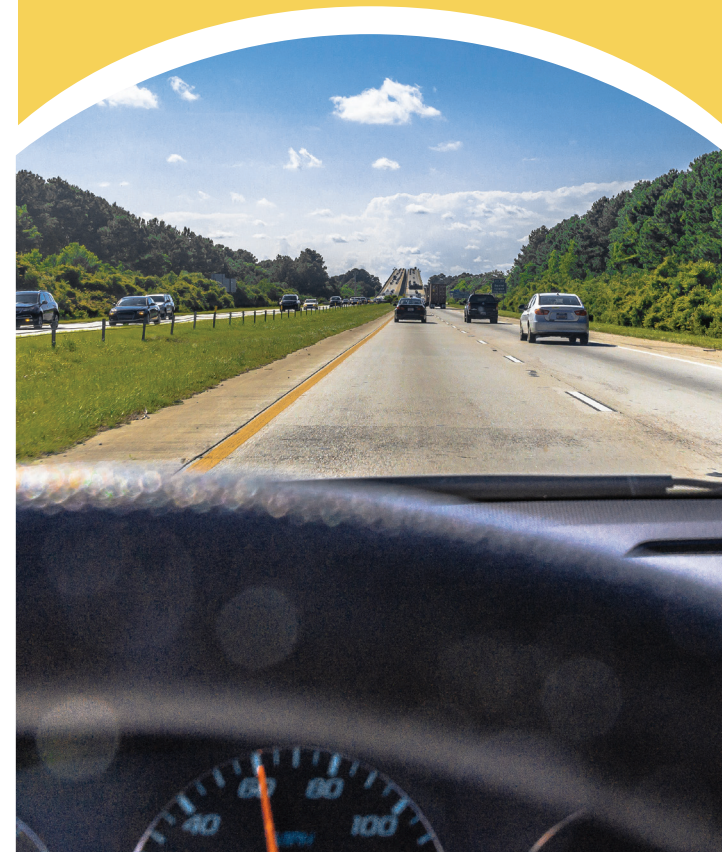
The Vision Institute of SC
to get a list of qualified
doctors and professionals at
www.tvisc.org



**The Vision Institute
of South Carolina, Inc.**

PO Box 1923
Irmo, SC 29063
803.627.8847
www.tvisc.org

Are you a
**South Carolina
resident**
who wants to
DRIVE but has
Low Vision?



STEP 1

Participate in a low vision evaluation with an optometrist or ophthalmologist who specializes in low vision and/or bioptic telescopes. In most cases, insurance will cover the cost of this evaluation. Discuss with your doctor your medical history, eye condition, and driving goals. Your doctor will explain the pros and cons of bioptics and whether or not you are a candidate for bioptic driving.

STEP 2

Participate in a 2 ½ hour pre-driving evaluation with a Certified Driving Rehabilitation Specialist (CDRS). In some cases, insurance may cover a portion of this evaluation. The purpose of this evaluation is to determine whether you have the prerequisite skills necessary for driving before purchasing a bioptic telescope. If paying privately, this cost may range between \$300 and \$700.

STEP 3

Work with your low vision doctor to order a bioptic telescope that works best for you. Your doctor will prescribe and custom fit the telescope to meet your vision needs. The cost of this bioptic telescope may be up to \$2,500.

STEP 4

Get a learner's permit from the SC Department of Motor Vehicles, unless you currently possess a valid SC license. If no previous driving experience or a minor, take a state-approved driver education course (about 8 hours in a classroom). If no previous driving experience, you must have the permit for 180 days before taking the road test.

STEP 5

Learn how to use the bioptic telescope as a pedestrian. Your doctor will refer you to work with a professional trained in teaching bioptics. This professional may be an occupational therapist (OT), certified low vision therapist (CLVT), or a certified orientation and mobility specialist (COMS) with a background in low vision devices. These instructional lessons in the use of a bioptic may cost approximately \$500 and/or if medically authorized, insurance may cover this part of the process.

STEP 6

While wearing your bioptic telescope, participate as a passenger in bioptic driving lessons for a minimum of 10 hours. If paying privately, this cost may likely be a minimum of \$1,200. In some instances, insurance may cover part of this cost.

STEP 7

While wearing your bioptic lenses train with a CDRS "behind the wheel" as a driver. Trainees with previous driving experience will need to have at least 20 hours of training. If a new driver with no driving experience, the hours need to be at least 30 hours and may exceed 30 hours. These training hours will likely cost between \$3,000 and \$4,000 depending on the hours needed to become a proficient driver.

FINAL STEPS

After you have gone through each step, you will have the necessary paperwork (report from your doctor and bioptic driving training certificate) to submit to the SCDMV. After reviewing this documentation and confirming all requirements have been met, SCDMV will send you a letter advising you how to set up your on road driving test. Once you pass the on road driving test, you'll be issued a driver's license with restrictions.

Lastly, return to your low vision doctor for an annual low vision evaluation. You will need to submit this report to the SCDMV annually, within 60 days of the anniversary of the date your driver's license was issued to you. Annual reports should be mailed to:

SCDMV
Driver Improvement Office
Post Office Box 1498
Blythewood, SC 29016-0016